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January 8, 2026

Dear Mayor Payne and City Council,

On December 11, 2025, the Arts Commission received an update on the Rebecca Howard Park Development Plan by Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation Department (OPARD) staff. The presentation included concepts for art features and community hub, phasing and timeline.

Arts Commission members appreciated the recognition of community members of color, and the visibility the park design brings to a city that is predominantly white. They noted that the project was a great opportunity for Black artists particularly.

While it is not the typical practice of the Arts Commission to offer letters of support, for this project we wish to match the process of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in providing our unanimous endorsement for this project.

Respectfully,

Kathryn Dorgan, Chair
Arts Commission